

REMARKS

The Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

The Office Action rejects the claims of the application as anticipated by Foo et al.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the allegation that Foo et al. teaches a system or process wherein "...the gradient echo pulse sequences are calculated... by said additional gradient contribution" (See claims 1 and 9).

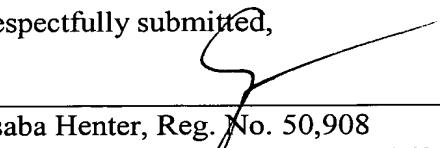
The inventions are particularly described at page 22, under "2." of the specification. The implementation of the above aspect involves recomputing all imaging gradients of a given pulse sequence such that the additional gradient contributions to maximizing M_1 provide an M_1 that is given by a boundary velocity v_{max} and at the same time do not change M_0 of the original gradient pulse sequence. That is to say, the flow sensitive pulse sequences superimpose with the original phase encoding gradients (and with the gradient crushers). Please see Fig. 2c of the application, and compare for example to Fig. 2b.

In Foo et al., the overall gradient pulse sequences used comprise different pulses for the flow attenuation and the phase encoding. Unlike for this invention, Foo et al. does not combine both in one and the same pulse sequence. See Figs. 4 and 6 of Foo et al. where flow sensitive gradients 162, 164 and 166 are different from the phase encoding gradients (and gradient crushers 170, 172 and 176), unlike in the claims of this application. See, e.g., Fig. 2c.

Because of this difference, the systems and methods of the present claims have a much shorter pulse train than do those of Foo et al. See, e.g., page 22, lines 10-13. Thus, the claims are not anticipated since Foo et al. does not even suggest using such a different design.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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